

REMARKS

The present proposed amendment and remarks are submitted in response to the Official Action (Final Rejection) issued September 9, 2003.

Claims 1 – 24 are currently pending in this application. Of these, claims 13 – 23 stand withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner in view of an earlier requirement for restriction and subsequent election of claims 1 – 12 and 24 for prosecution in this application. Therefore, claims 1 – 12 and 24 are active, with claims 1 and 24 being independent.

Claims 1 – 11 and 24 have been finally rejected for obviousness under 35 USC § 103 (a) based upon a combination of Smith (U.S. Pat. 3,207,127) in view of Yamashita et al. (U.S. Pat. 4,967,782) and Sugimoto et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,656,088), and claim 12 has been "objected to" by the Examiner "as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims".

The Examiner is thanked for the indication of allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, it is proposed to:

- (1) incorporate the limitation of claim 12 (directly dependent upon independent claim 1) into claim 1;
- (2) cancel claim 12;
- (3) cancel non-elected claims 13 – 23; and

- (4) cancel independent claim 24.

Applicants respectfully submit that, by the present amendment and remarks, this application is placed in condition for immediate allowance. At the least, the present amendment places the application in better condition for appeal. It is further noted that the proposed amendment does not include new matter, present additional claims, or necessitate further search, and is fully responsive to the Office Action (Final Rejection) of Sept. 9th. Accordingly, entry of the proposed amendment and remarks, and favorable consideration of this application, are respectfully solicited pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116.

As proposed to be amended, remaining independent claim 1 includes recitation of subject matter of "objected to" claim 12. Specifically, remaining independent claim 1 is proposed to recite the substrate mounting means as including means for vertically mounting a disk-shaped substrate comprising a pair of oppositely facing major surfaces to be simultaneously dip coated by immersion in a liquid contained in the dip coating vessel and means for rotating the disk-shaped substrate about a central axis.

As the Examiner has recognized, such feature of vertical mounting and rotation about a central axis of a dual-sided substrate (or workpiece) for *simultaneous* dip coating of *both* sides thereof is neither disclosed or rendered obvious by the references of record. In point of fact, an express feature of the newly cited Sugimoto et al. reference is prevention of substrate rotation, as, for example, taught at Col. 13, lines 34 ff and Fig. 11. The present amendment therefore patentably distinguishes over of the combination of reference teachings relied upon by the Examiner in positing obviousness of claims 1 - 11 under 35 USC § 103 (a). Therefore, it is urged that independent claim 1 and claims 2-11

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dependent therefrom, as proposed to be amended, define novel and unobvious subject matter over the prior art of record and are thus allowable.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application, as proposed to be amended, is in condition for immediate allowance. Therefore, favorable consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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